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JET

JAN. 30, 1995
BLACK AMERICA'S
LEADING
NEWSMAGAZINE

**Laurence
Fishburne
And Ellen
Barkin Star
in Spy Thriller
Movie,
'Bad Company'**

INSIDE:

**Survey Says
Some Mothers
Still Believe
That Spanking
Is Good
Discipline**

64060



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LAURENCE FISHBURNE and **Ellen Barkin** light up the screen in action-packed spy thriller *Bad Company* **ON PAGE 32**.
Cover photo by Alan Zenuk



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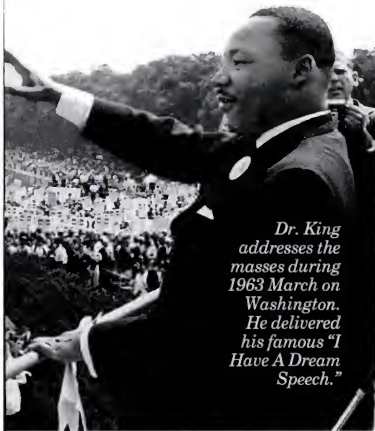


President Bill Clinton Proclaims Federal Holiday For Nation To Remember Dr. King

President Clinton issued a proclamation designating January 16, 1995, the "Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday," as the nation paid tribute to the civil rights great.

The proclamation came on the eve of the national celebration which recognizes the man who dedicated his life to ending the oppression of racism.

Dr. King was assassinated as he



Dr. King addresses the masses during 1963 March on Washington. He delivered his famous "I Have A Dream Speech."



President Clinton issued proclamation naming January 16, "Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday" as people throughout country celebrated King's legacy.

stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis in 1968. To commemorate his legacy, a number of events and community services were held throughout the country.

In his statement, Clinton said, "...With an entire generation of voting Americans who did not witness firsthand the great civil rights victories of the 1960s, it is more important than ever to remind the nation about Dr. King and his inestimable gifts to this country, so that all of us can continue to grow in our commitment to justice and equality."

In honor of the King birthday, Clinton also urged "the citizens of this great country to reflect upon Dr. King's teachings and to take positive and life-affirming action in his memory."

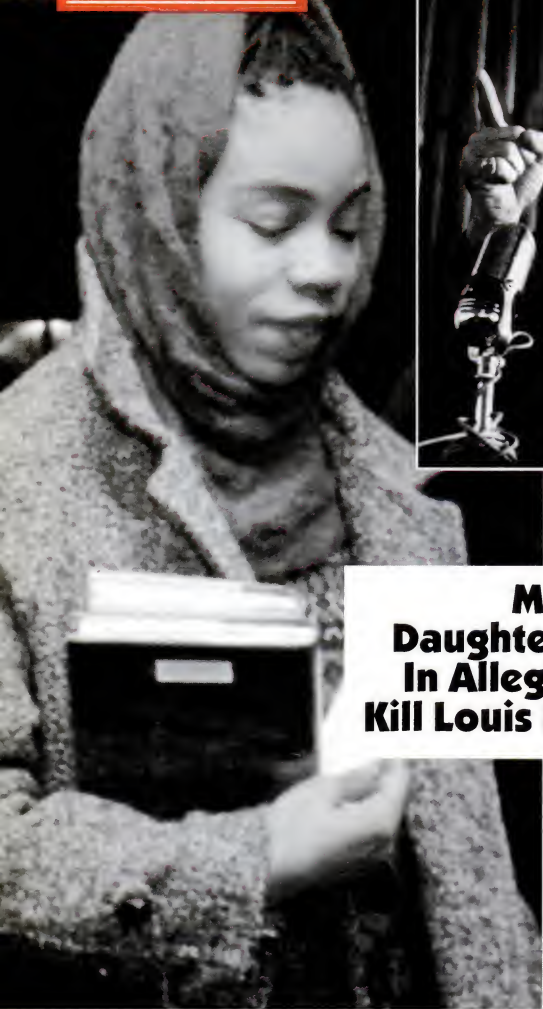
Chicago Poll Reveals Whites Think Minorities Are Hardworking

A recent poll of Chicago residents found that most Whites believe that minorities are hardworking and are depicted negatively by the media.

The survey revealed that the media "sometimes fosters stereotypes," said Paul J. Lavrakas, director of Northwestern University Survey Laboratory, which conducted the study for the Human Relations Foundation of Chicago, in the Chicago Sun-Times.

The survey examined racial differences and attitudes in Chicago and Cook, DuPage and Lake counties.

The 1994 telephone survey of 1,111 English-speaking adults also found that about three-fourths of Whites own their own home, while nearly half of Hispanics do, but only two-fifths of Blacks.



▲ *The late Malcolm X was a charismatic leader who was slain in 1965.*

Malcolm X's Daughter Indicted In Alleged Plot To Kill Louis Farrakhan

◀ *Qubilah Shabazz, daughter of the late Malcolm X, leaves the Minneapolis Federal Building after her initial court appearance. She has been charged with trying to hire a hit man to kill Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.*

A daughter of slain leader Malcolm X was recently indicted and charged with trying to hire a hit man to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Qubilah Shabazz, 34, was with her father when he was murdered nearly 30 years ago.

She faces charges of using the telephone and crossing state lines in the course of trying to hire the hit man to kill Farrakhan, U.S. Attorney David Lillehaug said.

The nine-count indictment against her follows a seven-month FBI investigation. If convicted, she could be sentenced to 90 years in prison and fined \$2.25 million.

Because Ms. Shabazz has been cooperating with authorities, prosecutors had no plans to



▲ *Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, says attempts to link him to the assassination of Malcolm X are part of a continual conspiracy to discredit Black leaders.*



◀ *Leonard F. Muhammad, Louis Farrakhan's chief of staff, says Farrakhan's "heart goes out to the Shabazz family" at news conference held outside of Farrakhan's house in Chicago.*

► *In early 1960s file photo, young Qubilah Shabazz enjoys time with her famous father, Malcolm X. Ms. Shabazz and her five sisters were raised by their mother Betty Shabazz after their father was murdered in 1965. Qubilah was about five years old and in the audience when her father was assassinated during a speech in New York City.*



insist that she be held until trial.

“We have been in contact with her and her attorneys this week,” Lillehaug said at press time. “She has voluntarily checked into the courthouse each day. She surrendered voluntarily today.”

Ms. Shabazz’s lawyer says she was lured into a plot to kill Louis Farrakhan by a childhood friend, reportedly living under the witness

protection program.

The alleged hit man who worked with federal authorities to make the case against Ms. Shabazz was a childhood friend, said Scott Tilsen, her court-appointed lawyer.

“This case is about enticing, luring and seducing her into the plot,” Tilsen said. “Her friendship and trust in him was used.”

Tilsen would not identify the man

other than to say he is White, in his 30s and a government employee.

Shabazz, formerly of New York City, has lived in Minneapolis since September.

The indictment said eight phone conversations occurred in July and August, and that Shabazz traveled from New York to Minnesota. After arriving, she made a partial payment to the person she hired to kill the 61-year-old Farrakhan, the indictment said. The indictment also said the

killing was to occur in Illinois, where Farrakhan lives.

At a news conference, U.S. Attorney Lillehaug said the would-be hitman was not believed to be a member of the Nation of Islam. He said the person is cooperating and is expected to be a trial witness. Lillehaug said other information, including Shabazz's alleged motive, would not be released before the trial.

Malcolm X was shot to death on Feb. 21, 1965, as he gave a speech to

▼ *Betty Shabazz is overcome with grief as she rushes to the aid of her dying husband Malcolm X who was shot during a speech at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City in 1965.*





◀ *David Lillehaug, U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota, announces at a press conference in Minneapolis that Qubilah Shabazz, daughter of slain leader Malcolm X, is charged with trying to hire a hit man to kill Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.*

followers at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City's Harlem section. Ms. Shabazz and her mother, Betty Shabazz, who was pregnant with twins, were in the crowd. Qubilah was about five at the time.

Malcolm X, who had been the voice of the Nation of Islam under Elijah Muhammad, was exiled from the group in 1963. He subsequently came under verbal attack from other members.

Farrakhan has said attempts to link him to Malcolm X's assassination are part of a continual conspiracy to discredit Black leaders.

A year after Malcolm X's slaying, two Nation of Islam members and another man were convicted in the murder. Two of them, Muhammed Abdul Aziz and Kalil Islam, were paroled in 1985 and 1987, respectively, after serving their minimum

20-year sentences.

The third man, Thomas Hagan, testified that Aziz and Islam hadn't participated in the assassination. Hagan, who was sentenced to 20 years to life, has been denied parole four times. But since the late 1980s, he has been in a prison work-release program that allows him to spend most of his time outside prison and live with his family. He has worked as a youth counselor and manager of a homeless shelter.

Upon hearing of the recent charge against Ms. Shabazz, a spokesman for Farrakhan issued a statement saying Farrakhan's "heart goes out to the Shabazz family." Farrakhan's chief of staff Leonard Farrakhan Muhammad added, "We're waiting for the full story to come out. We hope the government will release the full details."

Mel Reynolds' Accuser Beverly Heard Says She Feels Remorse About Lying



▲ *Heard is embraced by her friend Karen Lawson, 19, whom she said helped her through the ordeal of the Mel Reynolds case. Heard said Reynolds' constant phone calls endangered their relationship and prompted her to make the false charges.*

The 19-year-old accuser who recanted her sex abuse charges against Congressman Mel Reynolds recently said she feels remorse about the whole ordeal.

"I feel remorse. I feel like the ball got out of my control also, but I do feel remorse also," explained Beverly Heard, in the Chicago Sun-Times.

She also informed the paper that she regrets going to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and if she had to do it over again, she wouldn't have (see page 24).

"I definitely, definitely would not have went to the state's attorney's office. I wouldn't have gotten them involved." She said she would have handled her alleged problems with Reynolds on her own.

Heard told the paper she made the allegations against Reynolds because he repeatedly made phone calls to her and the calls were threatening her relationship with her girlfriend, Karen Lawson, 19. She made it clear that she is not "this lesbian devil-worshipping monster."

In the hour-long interview in her lawyer's office somewhere in Chicago,



Rich Hein

▲ *Beverly Heard, the woman who recanted her sexual abuse allegations against Congressman Mel Reynolds, talks about the case in her lawyer's Chicago office.*

she revealed that the justice system pressured her into bringing charges against Reynolds, despite her attempts to recant her initial statements.

"I am a human being, and I've really been judged unfairly through the media. The state's attorney has had a lot to do with that," Heard added.

The Sun-Times reports, however, that the allegations of her sexual preference and Satanic worship were first made public in a release by Reynolds' office aides. But Heard didn't criticize Reynolds for it.

Heard said prosecutors pushed ahead with the probe of her false allegations even though she

told them she was lying, "within days," of her making the charges against the second-term legislator.

She said the prosecution's case was primarily based on her charges and taped phone calls between her and Reynolds in which she enticed him into making suggestive statements.

"What they really based everything on was those phone calls. It wasn't about me anymore, it was about what they heard Mel saying. I

wasn't even a player anymore. It was like, 'Bev, you're on the phone with him, we have you as an instrument,'" she continued.

Heard said she wanted to back out but prosecutors intimidated her with threats. One prosecutor, she recalled, "screamed at me. Screaming, saliva and the whole bit."

She said when she testified before the grand jury, "they didn't hear what I really wanted to say.

"My mother wasn't there, my attorney wasn't there, and even if I did try to strike out against them (the state's attorney), I was really just too afraid to.

"I was really afraid; I didn't know if they were going to throw me in jail. I mean they were vicious. And I didn't know what was going to happen to me," Heard concluded.

Confidential: When his 18-year-old daughter announced that she would marry a Black man during the turbulent LBJ (President **Lyndon B. Johnson**) years almost three decades ago, Secretary of State **Dean Rusk** was determined to stand by her side. Weathering the storm of public disapproval in 1967, he even offered his resignation from the Cabinet to President Johnson. When the Georgian-born statesman died several weeks ago, attending his funeral in Athens, GA., was his son-in-law and daughter **Guy** and **Margaret Elizabeth Smith**. The last time the former secretary had visited the interracial couple was just last October for the wedding of their only child, daughter **Samantha**. Guy, a former military helicopter pilot and Georgetown U.

honor grad, and his wife now operate a family horse farm. He declined news coverage saying, "Our life has been very happy this way."...With a \$6.5 million book deal, retired Gen. **Colin Powell** opens the Kennedy Center "distinguished speakers series" on Feb. 6th in Washington. Also on the \$48.75 ticket circuit are ex-New York Gov. **Mario Cuomo** and poetess **Maya Angelou**...After the GOP stripped most of the Hill's Blacks from jobs, the Senate voted to keep a Black woman, Dr. **Harriett G. Jenkins**, as director of the Office of Senate Fair Employment Practices...President **Bill Clinton** named **Samuel J. Simmons**, president of the National Caucus on Black Aged, to the policy committee which will arrange the May White House conference on aging.

National Headliners

An activist-engineer from Seattle, **Oscar Eason Jr.**, was sworn in as the new president of Blacks in Government (BIG)...Former Labor Dept. regional counselor in Philadelphia, **Covette Rooney** was named the first woman and Black federal administrative law judge in Mississippi. The Temple law graduate was assigned to Hattiesburg to handle a Social Security case backlog...Entertainer **Bill Cosby's** Valentine Night special performance at the Kennedy Center was billed "a possible sellout" as soon as tickets were released...Morehouse College plans to honor Dr. **Howard Thurman** with erection of a carillon tower with bells and Dr. **Benjamin Mays** with a campus memorial with his crypt...Financial wizard: Atlanta's new chief financial officer **Kathy J. White**, who gave up a post as TVA vice president and treasurer... **Dorothy Jackson**, former aide to House Speaker **Tom Foley**, has become legislative chief for Texas Rep. **Eddie Bernice Johnson**.



Colin Powell

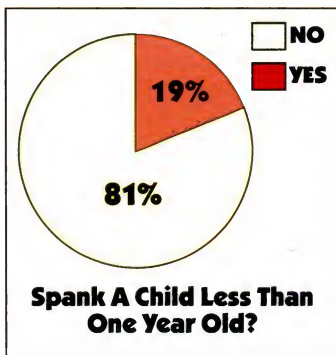


Harriett Jenkins

Survey Says Some Mothers Still Believe That Spanking Is Good Discipline

While "Time out!" has become a familiar cry of many mothers trying to discipline their kids, there are still plenty who believe in the adage "spare the rod, spoil the child," according to a recent survey.

The study, which was headed by Dr. Rebecca R. S. Socolar, a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, found despite the advice of many experts, "many mothers believe in spanking toddlers and report that they commonly do so."



For the poll, 204 mothers were surveyed at two New York sites where Dr. Socolar was a fellow at the time. One site was an inner-city teaching clinic at a Bronx hospital where most mothers had an annual household income of less than \$9,600 annually and the other was a private pedi-



◀ Alexis, 3, is hit on the wrist by her mother Yvette Curington after she's caught playing with electrical plug. Survey results showed 81 percent of mothers used their hand when spanking children.

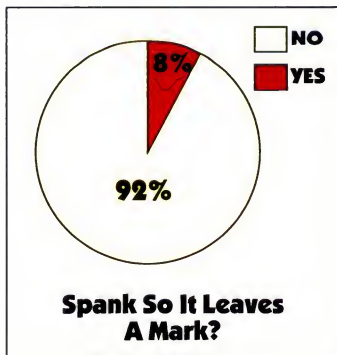
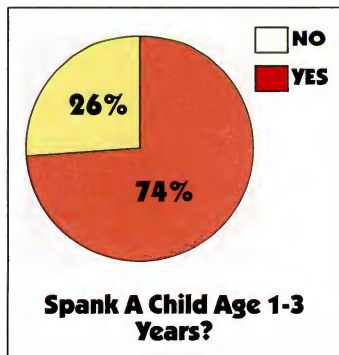


▲ Darla Underwood of Naperville, IL, sends daughter, Lindsey, 5, to her room for time out. While a number of mothers rely on time out for discipline purposes, there are still plenty who believe spanking is not harmful when done by a loving parent.

atrician's office in suburban Westchester County where the mothers were well-to-do.

Of the respondents, 21 percent were Black, 26 percent Hispanic, 48 percent White, 1 percent Asian and 4 percent classified as "Other."

Although putting children on "time out," making them go to their room, stand in the corner or turn off the TV instead of resorting to corporal punishment, is widely practiced by mothers, the survey indicates there are many who still believe spanking is a good





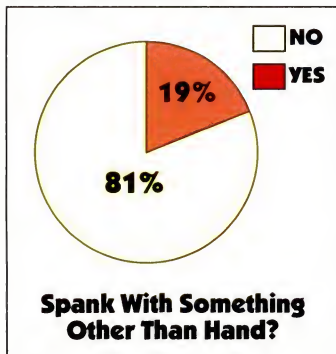
Alvin F. Poussaint



James P. Comer

way to instill discipline, even in children as young as 1 to 3 years of age.

Forty-two percent of the mothers surveyed had spanked their young children in the week before the poll, data showed. Of those who reported this type of discipline, 55 percent said their child was spanked once during the week, 19 percent said several times, 21 percent said about once daily and 5 percent said several times a day, the survey revealed.



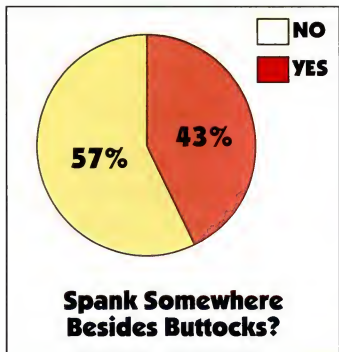
Dr. Socolar said the urban mothers were more likely to spank than ones from suburbia. She said the study also found, “mothers who had been spanked as a child both spanked more frequently and believed more strongly in spanking.”

Of the 204 survey participants, 19 percent agreed a child less than one year

should be spanked while 81 percent disagreed. But as the age of the child increased, so did the parents’ belief that spanking is a good form of punishment. When asked if a child from 1 to 3 years of age should be spanked, 74 percent of respondents agreed while only 26 percent disagreed.

When it comes to the severity of the spanking, 8 percent said they had left visible marks on the child after spanking while 92 percent said they never have. When spanking their offspring, 81 percent of mothers used their hand while 19 percent used something else. Most parents said they spank their children on the buttocks (57 percent) while 43 percent said they spanked their child somewhere besides their buttocks.

But many experts, including the National Association of Social Workers, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Surgeon General in 1985, have said corporal punishment should be discouraged in the



home and prohibited in school.

Previous studies have concluded that spanking can promote aggressive behavior, hamper development of moral reasoning, reduce self-esteem and make children depressed, the researchers said. But, Dr. Socolar admitted, "It is unclear whether spanking itself is the culprit or whether a hostile attitude underlying spanking might be the harmful factor."

In their book *Black Child Care*, Drs. James P. Comer and Alvin F. Poussaint, authorities on child care and development, agree spanking is not harmful to a child when done by a loving parent. "But if your child can achieve good control and behave well without spanking, why spank?" they said.

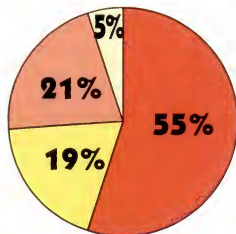
Though they don't object to spanking, Comer and Poussaint maintain one of the problems with the practice is "when a parent spanks a child without just cause," taking out their hostility or anger on the child after a bad day at the office or other disappointments.

"By being hit by you when you are angry, children learn to hit others when in turn they are angry," they explained, adding, "Later when you try to help your child learn to talk out a problem rather than fight, you will be trying to undo a response that you helped establish in the first place," they wrote in the book.



Venson Curington Sr. doesn't hesitate to use a belt when disciplining his son, Venson Curington II. Forty-two percent of those surveyed spanked their child in week before poll.

Frequency Of Spanking (for 42% who believe in spanking)



- SEVERAL TIMES DAILY
- ONCE A DAY
- SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK
- ONCE DURING A WEEK

But beyond that, Comer and Pous-saint pointed out, “Some well-behaved, well-balanced people were

spanked reasonably often.” Which goes to show, “...when there is love and trust between parents and children, spanking will not have a negative effect” on the child, they agreed.

Women—Especially Blacks—Should Wait At Least Nine Months Between Pregnancies

Spacing pregnancies too close together increases the risk of prematurity and may help explain the relatively high death rate of Black newborns, a study found.

The study says women should wait at least nine months between pregnancies so they can build up the nutritional reserves necessary for a growing fetus.

Prematurity is the major cause of infant deaths in the United States. The research suggests that Black mothers’ tendency to get pregnant again quickly is one reason their infant mortality rate is twice as high as Whites.

The researchers revealed that almost half of the Black women they studied waited less than nine months between babies, compared to one-third

of the Whites. Ten percent of Blacks and 4 percent of the Whites waited less than three months.

“If we could encourage women to give themselves nine months between pregnancies, we are likely to see a narrowing of the difference in pregnancy outcomes between Black and White women in the United States,” said Dr. James S. Rawlings.

Rawlings conducted the study with his wife Virginia, a nutritionist, and Dr. John A. Read at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA. Results were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Infant mortality has fallen dramatically for both Blacks and Whites in recent decades, but the gap between races has remained stubbornly constant.

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This Week In Black History

January 24, 1885

Martin R. Delaney, physician and public official, died on this day in Xenia, OH. He graduated from the



*Martin R.
Delaney
1812-1885*

Harvard University Medical School. While practicing medicine in Pittsburgh, he was instrumental in wiping out a cholera epidemic in that city. Dr. Delaney was interested in the American Colonization Society, because he felt Africa would be a better place for Blacks. In post Civil War years, Dr. Delaney worked with the Freedman's Bureau.

January 25, 1966

► **Constance Baker Motley** on this day became the first Black woman appointed a federal judge. She was born in New Haven, CT, on September 14, 1921. She earned a B.A. degree at New York University and her LL.B. degree from Columbia University Law School. While a law school student, Mrs. Motley worked with the NAACP

Legal Defense and Education Fund. In 1964, she was elected to the New York state Senate becoming the only woman among 58 senators and the first Black woman in the history of the state of New York to sit in that government's upper chamber. In 1965, she became Manhattan Borough president, winning by a unanimous vote of the City Council, thus becoming the first Black and the first woman to serve as city borough president.

January 27, 1950

Omega Psi Phi, a Black fraternity, was admitted to the Ohio State University Council of Fraternity Presidents, after it repealed a constitutional clause barring White students.



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The model is wearing Fiesta Wine.

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Ex-AL Principal Who Opposed Mixed Race Dating Banned From Visiting District Schools



Hulond Humphries

The former Wedowee, AL, principal who opposed interracial couples attending his school's prom, will have limited contact with students under a federal lawsuit settlement.

The settlement reached recently by the school district and the Justice Department states that Hulond Humphries, former principal of Randolph County High School, is forbidden to visit any school in the district during school hours until at least July 1997.

Humphries may, however, attend functions that are open to the public, but he will be directly supervised by the school board.

The school administrator caused months of turmoil last February when he allegedly told student Revonda Bowen, who has a White father and a Black mother that she was "a mistake."

He also told students attending an assembly that he would cancel the school's prom if interracial couples planned to attend. At the time, Bowen was dating a White student, Chris Brown.

Student Revonda Bowen attended alternative, protest prom with her White boyfriend Chris Brown.

His comments led to a lawsuit against the school board, calls for his resignation and countless protests.

The anger culminated in August when an arsonist burned down the rural high school. After the fire, Humphries was moved to an administrative post overseeing the building of a new school (JET, Aug. 29, 1994).

Charlotte Clark-Frieson, the school board's only Black member, commented that the settlement was not restrictive enough, and called it "a complete and total sellout."



Kids At Chicago Children's Museum Will Experience Bias Firsthand When 'Prejudice Bus' Rolls Into Town

Youngsters visiting the Chicago Children's Museum will get an up close and personal view of racism when the Prejudice Bus comes to town later this year.

When kids board the Prejudice Bus, they are bombarded by names like "nigger," "cripple," "fatso" and "dago" as they make their way down the aisle. It is an interactive exhibit which was made possible by a two-year, \$175,000 grant from the Joyce Foundation.

Terri Johnson, who is a member of the exhibit's advisory committee, said in the foundation's recent newsletter, "The exhibit helps people understand the process of exclusion."

Admitting that the "gauntlet" is "hard hitting," Johnson said, "Pain is pain and here it is. Someone who's ostracized from the group, be it a fat kid, a kid in a wheelchair or a Black kid, it's the same process."

When exhibit viewers get on the bus, they see cutout characters of children representing a group of school kids. As you walk down the aisle to your seat, an audiotape rattles off a litany of racial epithets and derogatory terms. Museum officials said the terms used on the audiotape were ones actually selected from those youngsters told them they had been called, heard others called

or called someone else.

As you exit the Prejudice Bus, you are instructed to press a button on a bank of video monitors to describe how the experience has made you feel, whether it's mad, unhappy or dejected.

Another part of the exhibit showcases different body parts to suggest how visitors can cope in a similar real-life situation, such as keep your head up or use your feet to walk away.

While some feel the exhibit may be disturbing to some youngsters, Loren Behr, project manager for the exhibit, told the Chicago Sun-Times, "There's prejudice and discrimination in the world, and children need to deal with the pain they are feeling or the pain they're causing.

Behr added, "This is a way of addressing these problems head on. It's very powerful."

To prepare for the arrival of the Prejudice Bus, the museum has taken steps to prepare for any objections. "We expect that some people will be disturbed by this. In putting the exhibit together, we talked to some parents who felt this wasn't necessary because they think prejudice and discrimination aren't big problems. Well, they need to wake up!" Behr said in the article.



◀ *Congressman Mel Reynolds responds to questions in Chicago after a hearing in which attorney Reginald Turner stunned the session by saying that a teen-age campaign worker recanted her sex-abuse claim against Reynolds. Rep. Reynolds says he's now vindicated in the case that threatened his political career.*

Accuser Of U.S. Rep Mel Reynolds Says She Lied About His Sexually Assaulting Her

The teen-age female campaign worker who claimed she had sex with Congressman Mel Reynolds recently admitted she lied.

Attorney Reginald Turner made the stunning announcement in several soft-spoken sentences, during proceedings at Cook County criminal court in Chicago.

Reynolds' attorney Edward Genson called for charges to be dropped.

Prosecutors on the case, however, said they still would pursue the case.

"She was believed when she said I did it, and now she's not being

believed," Reynolds said in the Chicago Sun-Times.

"The question becomes are they (prosecutors) going after justice or are they going after me," Reynolds added.

The woman, who is now 19, and first brought charges against the Illinois congressman last year (JET, Aug. 29, 1994), said she made up the story of having sex with Reynolds as a 16-year-old minor, because she was pressured by authorities.

The accuser said she also falsely charged Reynolds because he repeatedly called her home, jeopardizing a relationship she had with another woman.

"I didn't want to lose her and he (Reynolds) was jeopardizing our relationship," she said in the deposition.

Despite a cloud of controversy hovering over Reynolds from sex charges, he successfully gained re-election to Congress last November.



◀ *Attorney Reginald Turner represents 19 year old who recanted charges of sex abuse.*



▲ Former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder chats with reporters before starting his radio talk show at WRVA in Richmond. Wilder will be hosting a two-hour call-in show weekdays.

Wilder Hosts New Radio Talk Show In Virginia

Rush Limbaugh and Howard Stern had better watch their backs because there's a new radio talk show host on the airwaves—ex-Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder.

The nation's first Black elected governor recently began a daily, two-hour morning talk show, "The Doug Wilder Show," in his hometown of Richmond, VA.

The show, said Wilder, is "my way of continuing in public service."

In his show's concept paper, Wilder is characterized as offering "experience and a moderate voice to airwaves that are otherwise saturated with ultra-conservatives (e.g., Rush Limbaugh and G. Gordon Liddy and extremists (e.g., Howard Stern and Don Imus)."

The program, which airs on radio station WRVA, is described by executive producer Glenn Davidson as "a current affairs show with a heavy

dose of politics."

Wilder, who is a longtime Democrat and has been involved in politics for more than two decades, promises, however, that his show will be non-partisan.

On his first day on the air, Wilder managed to wield enough influence to get calls from such notables as U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, former New York Mayor David Dinkins and CNN anchorman Bernard Shaw.

Owned and syndicated by Wilder and Davidson, the show will initially be broadcast only in the local Richmond area, but is anticipated to be syndicated statewide within several weeks, and nationwide by the end of the year.

Just in case you're wondering, Wilder's theme music is versions of the rock 'n' roll classic *Wild Thing*.

10 Hottest Couples Of 1995 Featured In February EBONY

Both pairs are among the 10 hottest couples of 1995 and both are featured on the cover of February's EBONY.

Other loving twosomes featured in the hottest couples article include actor Kadeem Hardison of "A Different World" fame and pop/soul music diva Chanté Moore, as well as talented singer/songwriter Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds and his lovely wife Tracey.

But to find out the identities of the remaining sizzling couples, you'll have to pick up the February issue and read all about them.

The new issue of EBONY also salutes Black History Month by offering advice from historians on how to celebrate Black history all year long. Plus, this issue looks back on how pioneer Blacks changed the color, rhythm and wealth of White America.

In addition, the February EBONY commemorates the magazine's special 50th anniversary by tracing "50 Years Of Black Love In Movies,"

by displaying intimate photos of matinee idols like Dorothy Dandridge and Harry Belafonte, and other greats such as Lena Horne, Sammy Davis Jr. and Eartha Kitt.



▲ The February EBONY sizzles with a feature revealing the 10 hottest couples of 1995. Among them are handsome sports star David Justice and his actress wife Halle Berry, actor Blair Underwood and wife Desirée Dacosta, Rep. Kweisi Mfume and actress Lynn Whitfield, and actors Laurence Fishburne and Victoria Dillard.

What do baseball hunk David Justice and his beautiful wife Halle Berry have in common with film star Laurence Fishburne and his lady love Victoria Dillard?

► **JAZZ FRIENDS:** Famed actor-director Clint Eastwood (c) and popular jazz drummer-composer Norman Connors (r) congratulate noted jazz saxophonist Charles McPherson at a press party in West Hollywood celebrating the release of his new album, *First Flight Out*, on the Arabesque Jazz record label. Eastwood, a longtime jazz enthusiast, directed the movie *Bird* which told the life and times of the late legendary saxophonist Charlie Parker and starred Forest Whitaker. McPherson played the alto saxophone solo parts on the *Bird* movie soundtrack.



Tyra Banks Buys \$500,000 Hollywood Home

Superstar model-actress Tyra Banks, who recently made her feature film debut in *Higher Learning*, directed by her boyfriend John Singleton, has bought a \$500,000 home in the Hollywood Hills.

The L.A. Times reported that Ms. Banks bought a three-story structure with five bedrooms and five fireplaces. The home, built in 1990, overlooks Los Angeles' massive San Fernando Valley. The newspaper said she



Tyra Banks

also is in the process of remodeling the house.

Ms. Banks, 21, became an internationally-acclaimed model four years ago when she was spotted in L.A. by a French modeling scout who sent her to Paris to model in couture shows, the Times reported.

She currently plays a college student on a basketball scholarship on the hit NBC-TV sitcom, "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air."



▲ **United In Love:** Daniel James and Bettie Turner wed recently at the Rising Star Baptist Church in St. Louis, MO. Both the bride and groom are registered nurses. She works at Deaconess Hospital in the city, and he is assistant patient care manager of the emergency department at St. Louis Regional Hospital. The couple sailed the Caribbean on their honeymoon cruise.



▲ **Together In Christ:** The Rev. Melvin King and his bride, the former Angelé Foster, recently exchanged vows at Bryant Temple AME Church in Los Angeles. He's a Tuskegee University grad and a youth minister at the church. She's a California State grad who works in the entertainment industry and at the church. They cruised the Mexican Riviera on their honeymoon.



◀ **Saying I Do:** Cheryl McAfee and Reginald C. Mitchell recently started a life together after being joined in holy matrimony at First United Methodist Church in Wichita, KS. The bride, a graduate of Harvard University, is an architect and vice president of Charles McAfee & Associates. The groom is a graduate of Clark/Atlanta University and is senior cameraman for the Olympic Games. The newlyweds honeymooned on Nevis Island.

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▲ **Joined Together In Love:** Gregory Robert Smith Jr. and his bride, the former Kimberly J. Brown were joined together in love recently in Chicago. She is a law student at the University of Illinois in Champaign. He is an African-American studies student at the University of Illinois in Chicago. The couple spent their honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico.

▲ **Always And Forever In Love:** Darrell Clark and his bride, the former Debra Smith, are forever in love after wedding at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Springfield, IL. The bride is a manager at the Dept. of Transportation in the city. She also owns a Black art business there. He's a grad of Bishop College and works at the Dept. of Transportation.



◀ **Blessed Union:** Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Strickland Jr. are thrilled after their recent candlelight wedding at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN. The bride, the former Loretta James, is a grad of East Tennessee State Univ. She is a counselor with Career Systems Development Corp. in the city. He is a grad of the Univ. of Tennessee and an election commissioner. He also owns several businesses in the city.

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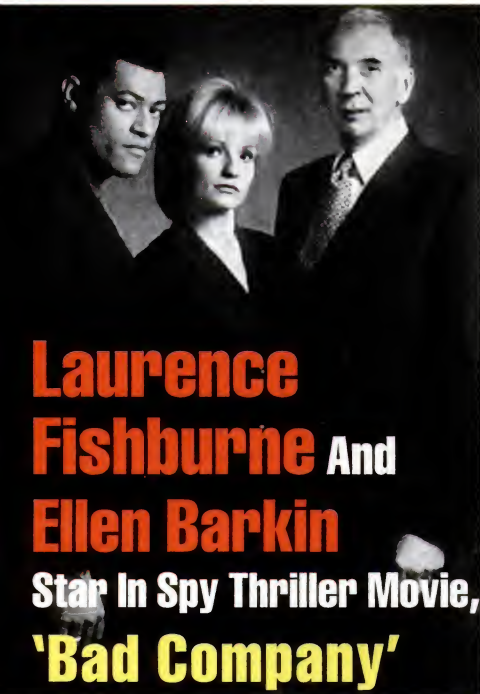


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Spring '95 Itinerary (Partial Listing)

Dothan, AL <i>Dothan Civic Center</i>	Sat., 1/21 8 pm
Montgomery, AL <i>Joe L. Reed Acadome</i>	Sun., 1/22 3:30pm
Tallahassee, FL <i>Lee Hall Auditorium/Florida A & M Univ</i>	Tues., 1/24 8 pm
Gainesville, FL <i>Center for the Performing Arts</i>	Wed., 1/25 8 pm
Jekyll Island, GA (Brunswick) <i>Hartley Auditorium</i>	Thurs., 1/26 8 pm
Jacksonville, FL <i>Jacksonville Civic Auditorium</i>	Fri., 1/27 8 pm
West Palm Beach, FL <i>West Palm Beach Auditorium</i>	Sat., 1/28 8 pm
Daytona Beach, FL <i>Daytona Beach Community College Theater Center</i>	Mon., 1/30 8 pm
Nassau, Bahamas <i>Radisson Cable Beach Hotel</i>	Wed., 2/1 8 pm
Ft. Lauderdale, FL <i>War Memorial Auditorium</i>	Thurs., 2/2 8 pm
Miami Beach, FL <i>Jackie Gleason Theater of the Performing Arts</i>	Fri., 2/3 8 pm
Kissimmee, FL (Orlando) <i>Tupperware Convention Center</i>	Sat., 2/4 8 pm
Tampa, FL <i>Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center</i>	Sun., 2/5 5 pm
St. Petersburg, FL <i>Mahaffey Theater/Bayfront Center</i>	Mon., 2/6 8 pm

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Laurence Fishburne And Ellen Barkin Star In Spy Thriller Movie, 'Bad Company'

Laurence Fishburne, whose roles have ranged from educator to drug abuser, recently took on the world of espionage when he teamed up with Ellen Barkin in the spy thriller *Bad Company*.

The movie is about an unscrupulous outfit called The Tool Shed, a company filled with beautiful and intelligent former espionage specialists who are determined to make it rich in the world of industrial espi-

◀ *Laurence Fishburne plays a former CIA agent hired by Ellen Barkin and Frank Langella to perform dirty tricks for business clients in film Bad Company.*

onage (spying on companies). And they employ such means as lying, cheating, stealing, and ultimately killing to get what they want.

In the film, produced by Touchstone Pictures, Fishburne is Nelson Crowe a former CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) operative who has ticked off quite a few of his superiors and is on the outs because of alleged misconduct. To get back in good with the powers-that-be and get reinstated, Crowe must infiltrate The Tool Shed's parent company, the Grimes Organization.

The Grimes Organization is headed by Victor Grimes (veteran actor Frank Langella), a deceitful man who is accustomed to being on top. His second in command is Margaret Wells (actress Ellen Barkin), a sophisticated, glamorous and driven woman.

Crowe, initially is very dedicated to getting back in the good graces of the legitimate spy community. Gradually, though, he becomes disillusioned and finally lets his love for



Crowe and Barkin's character, Margaret Wells, become lovers as they plot more devious and ambitious acts for profit and power.

the almighty dollar compromise him. That love for money is accompanied by his romantic relationship with Margaret.

The way Crowe figures it, he and

Margaret could find a way to get rid of Victor and run the entire company themselves. Crowe and Margaret manage to deliver some of the hottest, steamiest love scenes the big

screen has produced in recent years.

Fishburne has pointed out that he was drawn to the Crowe part because of the production team and a chance to work with such a highly respected actress as Ellen Barkin, who also has steamed up



▲ Barkin and Fishburne become a formidable team in movie.

► Fishburne's character, Nelson Crowe, lays his cards on the table as he attempts to blackmail a state Supreme Court justice played by David Ogden Stiers as his mistress, played by Gia Carides watches in disbelief.





▲ *The best-laid plots can often backfire as Crowe is under fire. He ducks for cover behind pots and pans while waiting to get his shot at his attacker.*

the screen a few years ago with Al Pacino in *Sea of Love*.

"Ellen has been a real source of strength because she is so committed and so available," Fishburne said. "I don't think there is anything she wouldn't do to make the character real or to make the scene real."

Ms. Barkin admitted she liked the idea of playing a truly villainous woman. "I was drawn to this project because of the wickedness of it, and the opportunity to play a non-traditional female character," she said. "The character, Margaret, is much more like a male villain. She doesn't have a sensitive moment where she reveals heartbreak in her past; she just is what she is and the fact that she's a woman doesn't really come into it. She's very complicated,

without apology."

Producer Amedeo Ursini said chemistry was important and he noticed beautiful, volatile chemistry between Fishburne and Barkin. "We felt immediately that there was an interesting chemistry between the two actors," he said. "Casting Laurence was a decision based on the fact that we all liked him and we felt very lucky that he wanted to do the part. The same with Ellen. This film is very much an actor's piece. So, the casting and the chemistry between the actors was crucial to its success. We have a film in which not only the two leads, but also five or six of the supporting characters, interplay with each other in most interesting ways. It was like mixing a cocktail. We had to achieve just the right balance."



Wells and Crowe become thick as thieves plotting their way to wealth and power. But there could be some deception behind those smiling faces.

Production officials said the film has such a realistic twist in light of the Iran/Contra hearing with Oliver North and the fact that the CIA laid off hundreds of spies about a decade ago and the former spies had tremendous intelligence information and

special skills that could be used for a wide variety of purposes.

Another of the film's producers, Jeffrey Chernov, called *Bad Company* "a movie that has the attitude of *Dangerous Liaisons* in the world of *Prizzi's Honor*."

▼ For special missions, Crowe gets the assistance of Todd Stap, played by Michael Beach.





◀ *Ben and Martha Chavis proudly show off their newborn twin sons John Mandela Chavis and Reginald Louis Chavis.*

It's been a time of new awakenings for Rev. Benjamin Chavis. No, it's not the career stuff that makes headlines. This time it's the personal stuff that's opened the eyes of this new father of twin boys.

As he walks into his new palatial home on the outskirts of Baltimore, it's clear that this longtime civil rights activist also is a very happy family man, who is first and foremost a dad and husband.

The Chavises Debut Their Twin Sons

With his 5-year-old son Franklin in tow, Chavis is greeted at the door by his 3-year-old daughter Ana. And

▼ *Rev. Chavis and wife Martha, with daughter Ana and son Franklin, enjoy spending time with the newest addition to the family—twins John Mandela and Reginald Louis.*



in the living room napping are his newborn twin sons, John Mandela and Reginald Louis, born last November—the day before Thanksgiving.

In case there was any question, at 47, Chavis, knows exactly what he wants for his newborn sons: roots.

“John was named after my great-great grandfather, Rev. John Chavis, and (Nelson) Mandela, who is a close friend of mine” says the former executive director of the NAACP. “And Reginald Louis was named after (the late business executive) Reginald Lewis and (Minister Louis) Farrakhan.”

Named after such imposing personalities, it's no wonder that the effect the boys have had on the Chavis family, even in their short life, has also been imposing.

“Most of the time when you have newborns there will be some rivalry,” says this father of eight, who has four adult children from previous marriages. But that is not the case in the Chavis home.

In fact, says Martha, Chavis' wife of eight years, their other two children take being the older siblings “very seriously. They entertain the babies and feed them.”

Of course with twins, everything is a production, including shopping.

“Now we have to buy twice as much of everything,” says Chavis, laughing. “People at the cash register want to know whether we realize that we've got two of everything. And it's always interesting to watch the public's reaction to twins.”

But what is really special, says



▲ *Civil rights activist Rev. Benjamin Chavis and wife, Martha, enjoy quiet time at their home near Baltimore, MD.*

Mrs. Chavis, is having her husband around, sharing the adventure of rearing the twins, who initially had to stay in the hospital a few extra days after their birth when one of them developed pneumonia.

That's a nice experience," she confides. "I breast-feed the babies, but during the night when they wake up he handles one and I handle the other." While having twins is sometimes more than a notion, it's also one of the great joys of parenting, says Mrs. Chavis.

"I never thought I could handle it," says the native of the Dominican Republic, whose mother had two sets of twins and one set of triplets. "It's rough having two babies. But I'm happy for them to be here."

Sixty-Three Percent Of Nation's Black Families Were Headed By Single Parents In 1993: Census Bureau

There are an increasing number of single parents, particularly Black parents, raising children, Census Bureau information shows.

In fact, 30 percent of all Americans, and a whopping 63 percent of the nation's Black families were headed by single parents in 1993, the Census Bureau reported.

The last census, in 1990, counted more than 7 million single parent families. The number represents about 28 percent of all families with children. That's up from 13 percent in 1970 and 22 percent in 1980.

The single family statistics include mothers and fathers who are divorced, widowed or never married, and repre-

sent all income groups.

The majority of the single parent families—about 80 percent—were families led by women, and single families as a group had lower incomes than two-parent families.

“Since the '70s we've seen a bit of a slowdown in the divorce rate,” said Arlene Saluter, a Census statistician. “However, there has been an increase in out-of-wedlock childbearing and teenage pregnancies,” Saluter said.

The Census Bureau noted that Albany, GA, has the highest percentage of single parent households in the nation, followed by New York City.

Short Kids Not Lacking Self-Esteem, Study Says

Short children are just like other children when it comes to areas such as self-esteem and mental health, a new study shows.

Therefore, short children don't have low self-esteem or more problems than their peers, despite the popular belief.

In reaching the conclusion that short kids are just like other children when it comes to self-esteem, Dr. Susana Campos of State University of New York and psychologist David Sandberg looked at the adjustment of 258 boys and girls, ages 4 to 18, whose height falls in the lowest 5 percent for their age.

They compared the children to a

general sample of children the same age, and also to a third group of children with psychiatric disorders.

Among their findings were that short youths aren't more likely than their peers to have behavior problems or low self-esteem. However, both these groups are better adjusted than kids with psychiatric problems.

In addition short girls were found to be as sociable as their classmates. Short boys though, were believed to be a little less mature than taller boys.

“The general notion is, short equals dysfunctional. But we found you can't stereotype kids that way,” Campos said.

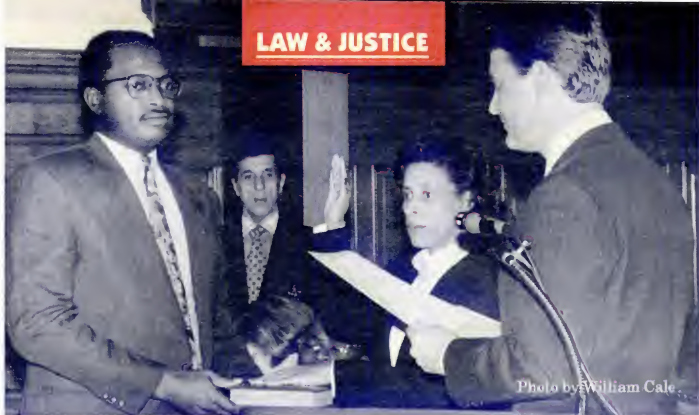


Photo by William Calk

▲ **HOOSIER JUSTICE:** New Indiana State Supreme Court Justice Myra C. Selby is sworn in by Gov. Evan Bayh (r) during recent ceremonies at the state capitol in Indianapolis. Selby, the former director of health care policy in Indiana, is joined by her husband Bruce Curry (l). They have a 9-year-old daughter, Lauren.

Former HUD Secretary Samuel Pierce Will Not Be Charged

Former Housing Secretary Samuel Pierce will not be charged with a crime, a special prosecutor announced recently following a five-year probe of corruption and influence peddling at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Pierce, who was Housing Secretary during the Reagan administration, acknowledged that his conduct during that period allowed aides to illegally steer federal aid to friends and political allies.

Prosecutor Arlin Adams said he decided not to prosecute Pierce, 72, because of his age and health and because he had lacked clear criminal intent and had not profited from the misdeeds.

Pierce's lawyer said the inquiry never found evidence that his client

actually broke the law. "That decision vindicates Mr. Pierce's integrity. We have said previously if there was a full and fair investigation they would ultimately come to the decision that he didn't lie, steal or cheat. The independent counsel made the right call," said attorney Paul L. Perito.

Pierce wrote that he "never received a single improper benefit for my actions." In another statement, he said, "Accepting ultimate responsibility is far different from engaging in criminal conduct."

The lengthy investigation led to 16 convictions and \$2 million in fines.



Samuel Pierce

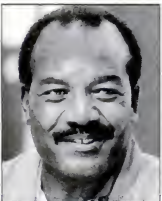
words OF THE WEEK



Tiger Woods, 18-year-old U.S. Amateur Golf champion who is a freshman at Stanford University in California and one of the most popular golfers today, on why he is determined to earn his business degree: *"I want to be able to manage the people who manage me."*



Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the late first lady whose words of wisdom are compiled in the new book, *The Uncommon Wisdom of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis*, observing after Sen. Robert Kennedy's death how Blacks cope with death: *"I'll tell you who else understands death are the Black churches. I remember at the funeral of Martin Luther King. I was looking at those faces, and I realized that they know death. They see it all the time and they're ready for it."*



Jim Brown, NFL Hall of Fame running back, giving advice in USA Today to his former team, the Cleveland Browns, who lost in the recent American Football Conference playoffs: *"When you get the hell beat out of you, there's no need to hang your head. You give credit where it's due and work harder next year."*



Dr. Pierrette Poinsett, pediatrician in Lamont, CA, on Proposition 187 which withholds medical care and educational services from undocumented immigrants in California: *"This proposition will result in more disease, more teenage pregnancy. If the health care of immigrants gets worse, we will have more health problems for other people as well. You'll see more infectious diseases and that will affect all children, not just immigrant children. Proposition 187 targets the most vulnerable population—children. It is unconscionable."*



**the week's
best photos**

AP/Tom Pidgeon

■ **DANCING TO THE BEAT:** Adorable Tara Lewis, 4, and her sister, Tori, 2, of Oak Park, MI, are caught up in the beat as they dance to music from the radio of a 1995 Ford pickup truck they are in as they attend the opening day of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

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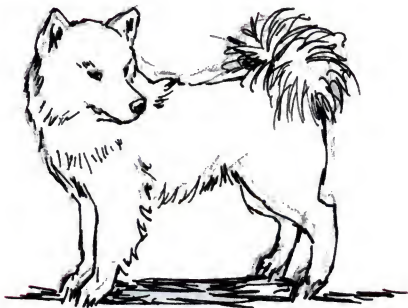
AP Photo

■ **ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:** At home in Kingwood, TX, George Foreman sits at his desk next to the heavy-weight championship belt he won to become the oldest heavyweight champion in history by knocking out Michael Moorer in the 10th round of their fight Nov. 5 in Las Vegas. Foreman, 46, recently was named Male Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press (AP).



■ **ROMPING & STOMPING:** Famed jazz pianist Dorothy Donegan kicks up her heels as she plays a footstomping, jazzy tune at Yvette Wintergarden nightclub in Chicago. Donegan, who has been performing for more than 50 years, won rave reviews for her showstopping performance.

Some Dogs Do Judge People By Their Color



Believe it or not. Dogs, like people, can see a difference between races, experts say.

This does not mean that a dog is racist. But it does suggest that dogs may be more comfortable with a certain race of people, the USA Today recently reported.

An example is when a White New York City family adopted a dog named Bingo from a shelter but the family couldn't make friends with him. Bingo spent most of his time under a table and would threaten those who came near.

Bingo's owner later discovered his spirits were lifted whenever he saw young Black male children. The family finally returned him to the shelter with a letter explaining

the situation. Bingo was later placed with a Black family and adjusted nicely to his new owners and home, the paper reported.

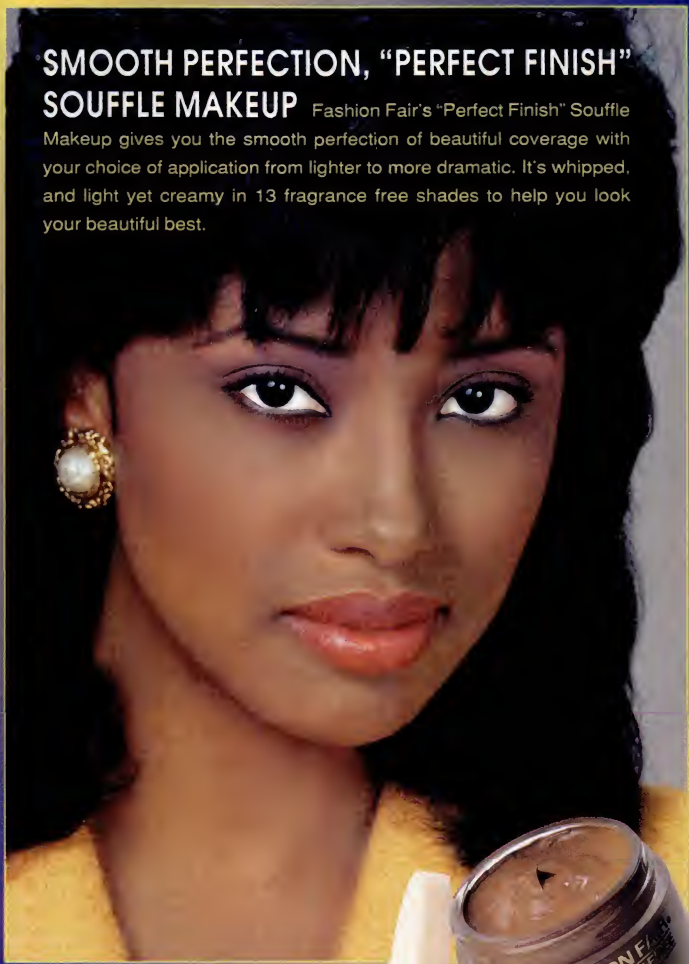
The Bingo story demonstrates how some dogs may prefer the race of their owners and show it in their behavior.

But as one noted pet observer says, it doesn't mean the dog or the owner is a racist.

"If a dog prefers people of his owner's race, it only means that he can see a difference between races, not that the dog or his owner is a bigot," explains Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, an anthropologist and best-selling author whose latest book, *The Hidden Life of Dogs*, arrives in bookstores in February.

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Breast Cancer Deaths Still Rising Among Black Women

Breast cancer deaths are continuing to rise among Black American women even as the death toll is falling for White women, federal health officials say.

An overall 4.7 percent drop in the breast cancer death rate between 1989 and 1992 was the biggest short-term decline since 1950.

The biggest decline was among White women. While the overall death rate was falling 5.5 percent among White women, it rose 2.6 percent for Black women.

Officials say there are 31 breast

cancer deaths per 100,000 Black women, compared with 26 per 100,000 among White women each year.

Minority death rates are also higher for prostate cancer, cervical cancer, diabetes, hypertension, asthma, fetal distress syndrome and other diseases, noted Dr. Samuel Broder, director of the National Cancer Institute.

Researchers say factors that influence the disparity among Black and White women include socio-economic class, stage of the disease at diagnosis, access to health care and age at menopause.

Americans Slowly Improving Diets, Says Agriculture Department

Americans are cutting back on red meat in favor of chicken and fish, and eating fewer eggs and more vegetables. But they're rewarding themselves with ice cream, and coffee with cream and two sugars!

Most Americans are trying to clean up their daily dietary act, according to a recent report by the U.S. Agriculture Department, comparing today's eating habits with the

diets of 1970.

But, as the report points out, there's still a way to go.

"Americans are slowly, and with fits and starts, shifting their eating patterns toward more healthful diets," the department's Economic Research Service said. But, "A considerable gap still remains between public health recommendations and consumers' practices."

Scientists Say Initial HIV Carriers Are Extremely Contagious

Scientists recently discovered that people are extremely contagious in the first 60 days after contracting HIV—the same period in which they can't possibly know they have it.

So if someone suspects a partner is having sex with others, it's better to use a condom, researchers warn.

Tests can't detect the virus for four to six weeks—when most of that risky, early phase has passed.

A University of Michigan study found in the first 60 days after being infected, a person could transmit the AIDS virus to someone else in as many as three out of every 10 sexual encounters.

After two months, the disease enters a less active phase, during which the chance of giving it to someone else drops, says John Jacquez, senior author of the study.

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▲ Bill Russell (l) and Wilt Chamberlain smile after the longtime NBA rivals sat in booths next to each other at Boston High School signing autographs during the New England Card Show. Organizers say it's the second card show Russell has done since swearing off autographs in 1964.

Wilt Chamberlain Remembers Rivalry With Bill Russell

Before Kareem Abdul-Jabbar faced off against Bob Lanier, and Patrick Ewing battled Hakeem Olajuwon, Hall of Fame centers Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain's classic duels thrilled NBA fans.

Chamberlain reminisced about those days recently during a national card show in Boston where his now reclusive rival Russell was on hand to sign autographs for fans.

"People always made a big deal of us being rivals, but we're back to being very, very close," Chamberlain said in the Chicago Tribune.

"The rivalry was on court. I was the villain because I was so much bigger and stronger and Bill back then was a jovial guy.

"I'm happy with the way things turned out. He was overall by far the best, and that only helped bring out

the best in me. I'm getting some peace of mind because as time goes by more and more people give me my due," Chamberlain explained.

Russell and Chamberlain battled each other 147 times between 1959 and 1969. Russell played with the Boston Celtics and Chamberlain primarily played for the old Philadelphia Warriors.

In those monumental clashes of the titans, the Celtics had a record of 87-60 while Chamberlain averaged 28.7 points and 28.7 rebounds. Russell, unlike Chamberlain, was not the offensive powerhouse, but averaged 14.5 points and 23.7 rebounds.

Tickets for the Boston card show sold out quickly and basketball fans crowded the booths to pay Russell and Chamberlain as much as \$295 and up for their autographs.

Oprah Reveals On Her Show She Smoked Crack Cocaine During Her 20s



▲ America's favorite talk show host Oprah Winfrey revealed during an emotional show recently that she smoked crack cocaine during her 20s.

Calling it “one of the hardest things I’ve ever said,” talk show queen Oprah Winfrey revealed during a recent show that she had smoked crack cocaine while in her 20s.

Winfrey, 40, whose popular syndicated “Oprah Winfrey Show” is the nation’s No. 1 talk show, was interviewing four mothers who had experienced problems with drugs

along with Patrice Gaines, a Washington Post reporter, who has written a book chronicling her own experience with drug abuse.

During the taping, Winfrey turned to her guests and the studio audience and said, “Let me say this, and this is probably one of the hardest things I’ve ever said,” her voice beginning to crack. “Hold on just a second,” she said as she tried to regain her composure.

Turning to one of the guests who had admitted smoking crack, Winfrey said, “I relate to your story so much because of what Patrice just said about being introduced to drugs by men in your life.”

She continued, “In my 20’s, I’d done this drug and I know exactly what you are talking about.” She said the drug use occurred while she was an anchorwoman on a television news show.

“It’s my life’s great big secret. It was such a secret because—I realize (with) the public person I have become—if the story ever were revealed, the tabloids would exploit it and what a big issue it would be.”

She went on to explain, “But I was involved with a man in my 20s who introduced me to the same drug that you’ve been talking about and, like Patrice, I always felt that the drug itself is not the problem but that I was addicted to the man.” She

admitted: “I can’t think of anything I wouldn’t have done for that man.”

Reflecting on this difficult period in her life, she added, “And I’ve often said over the years...in my attempts to come out and say it, I’ve said many times I did things in my 20s that I was ashamed of, I did things I felt guilty about, but that is my life’s great big secret that’s always been held over my head.

“I had a perfect round little Afro, I went to church every Sunday and I went to Wednesday prayer meeting when I could... and I did drugs.”

She said dealing with the topic on the show gave her the strength to face her own demons. “But you having the courage to come out...has made me feel free enough to say it today.”

Winfrey, her audience spellbound, clinging to her every word, pointed out, “I understand the shame. I understand the guilt. I understand the secrecy. I understand all that.”

However, she affirmed, “But what I know is that the spirit of God inside of all of us—but what we tend to believe, I think a lot of people believe, is that the drug is stronger than the power of God. They believe that disease is stronger than the power of God.

“There is nothing greater than the spirit within you to overcome. You and God can conquer this. You can conquer it,” she affirmed as the audience broke into applause.

After sharing her “great shame” with her mentor, poet-author-ac-

tress Maya Angelou, Winfrey said she was bolstered by her comforting response. “I shared this with Maya Angelou...and you know what she said to me? It really turned my life around and I say this to you, ‘You did then what you knew how to do and when you knew better you did better.’ And I’ll never forget that.”

While Winfrey had not released an official statement regarding the show at JET press time, in Gaines’ first-person account about the show’s taping there was a comment from Deborah Johns, a spokeswoman for the show.

Johns was quoted in the Post as saying, “Oprah made a spontaneous admission to mothers battling drug addiction that she also had used drugs...Oprah’s words on the show are the best expression of how she feels.”

In the article, Gaines, the author of *Laughing in the Dark: From Colored Girl to Woman of Color - A Journey From Prison to Power*, said Winfrey began to cry before making the admission to her guests.

Gaines said Winfrey told her later that the drug use had been at the behest of a man that she was involved with and that when the two parted, she stopped using drugs.

Winfrey, whose show is number one, did not indicate what form of cocaine she had used, but Johns said she understood the drug had been smoked. Johns also said that Winfrey would not be available for interviews on the subject.

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Michael Jackson Files \$100 Million Slander Suit Against TV Show



Michael Jackson

Music superstar Michael Jackson, who had warned the media bashers that “Enough is Enough” and “Leave Me Alone,” followed up his threat with a \$100 million lawsuit against TV’s “Hard Copy” and Los Angeles radio station KABC-AM.

The lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, says “Hard Copy” senior correspondent Diane Dimond slandered him by reporting that authorities had reopened their investigation of molestation allegations against the entertainer.

The court action stems from a Jan. 9 episode of the syndicated show and an appearance by Dimond the same morning on a KABC-AM radio talk show.

Also named in the lawsuit are “Hard Copy” producer Stephen Doran; Paramount Pictures Corp.; KABC talk show hosts Roger Barkley and Ken Minyard; and Victor Gutierrez, a freelance writer who claimed he saw the tape and was cited by Dimond as a source.

The 36-year-old megamusician and songwriter is seeking \$100 million in special damages and unspecified punitive damages after Dimond falsely told the broadcast audience

that there was a “red hot” probe into new allegations of child molestation against Jackson.

Prosecutors in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties, who concluded the Jackson child-sex investigation last year without filing charges, said the probe had not been reopened.

KABC Atty. Jean Zoeller declined to comment. A spokesman for “Hard Copy” informed the Associated Press (AP) that the show had not been served with any papers and stood by its report.

Prior to instructing his lawyers to take court action by filing the slander suit, Jackson had issued a statement to the media, warning them to quit “tripping” on him and “beat it.”

Directing his anger at newspapers, TV shows and anyone else spreading “vicious lies and rumors” about a videotaped sexual encounter between him and a 13-year-old, Jackson stated:

“I will no longer stand by and watch reckless members of the media try to destroy my reputation. I intend to protect myself and my family...”

“I have instructed my attorneys to immediately file lawsuits against those persons who continue to spread vicious lies and rumors about me in their attempts to make money, benefit their careers, sell papers or to get viewers to watch their programs.”

Jackson’s lawyer Howard Weitzman said the tape does not exist.

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Al Green, Martha Reeves And The Vandellas Inducted Into Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame During Gala Ceremonies In New York City



▲ Al Green, the soul singer turned gospel performer, accepts award from presenter Natalie Cole during induction in New York.

► *Martha Reeves, lead singer of Motown group Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, proudly holds award during 10th annual ceremony.*

Legendary soul singer Al Green, and the hit '60s group Martha Reeves and the Vandellas were recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Both Green and members of the group Martha Reeves and the Vandellas were thrilled to receive their award during 10th anniversary ceremonies at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel

▼ *Reeves (l) is joyous as she accepts award with other members of the hit '60s group Martha Reeves and the Vandellas. Also on stage are members of group B-52, Fred Schneider (r) and Kate Pierson in rear.*



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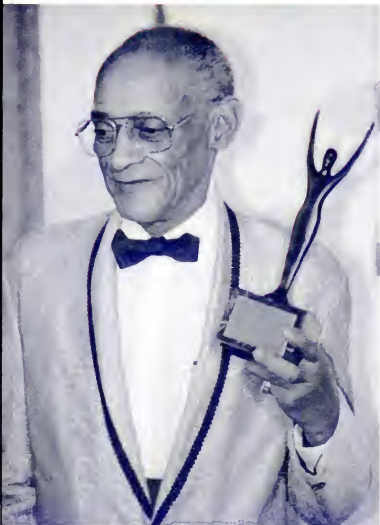


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▲ Johnny Reed, the only surviving member of the Orioles, accepts award in early influence category on behalf of other members.

in New York City.

Green, whose string of hits include *Let's Stay Together*, *Love And Happiness* and *I'm Still In Love With You*, appeared to be a bit overwhelmed by his induction.

"I never knew it would lead to all this," the soul singer turned gospel star and minister stated after singing *Take Me To The River* during the ceremony. He added, "I just decided to write some songs about my own little life."

Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, the Motown group that kept lis-

teners on their feet dancing to the beat, produced such hits as *Dancing in the Streets*, *Heatwave* and *Jimmy Mack*.

Honored in the early influence category was doo-wop group, the Orioles. Johnny Reed, the only surviving member of the Orioles, accepted the award on behalf of the other members.

Among the presenters at the annual ceremony was singing diva Natalie Cole, who presented Al Green his award.

Artists are eligible for the coveted honor 25 years after their first record, and this year's crop of inductees join such music giants as Willie Dixon and reggae legend Bob Marley, who were inducted last year.

In the past 10 years the Hall of Fame has honored such R&B veterans as Ike & Tina Turner, Ruth Brown, Otis Redding, James Brown, the Four Tops, Chuck Berry, and Sam & Dave.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame building is slated to officially open on Labor Day Weekend in downtown Cleveland, OH.

The building, reported to have cost \$92 million, will house an exhibit of stars' memorabilia—including stage costumes, instruments, journals and hand-written sheet music.

Among those artists' whose treasures will be showcased at the building are James Brown and the late Jimi Hendrix.

The building also will house performance spaces, interactive exhibits and special multi-media displays.

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movies to see



HOUSEGUEST Rated (PG) Hollywood Pictures



From the time Kevin Franklin was a child he always wanted to be rich. He has tried every get-rich-quick, fortune-hunting scheme ever devised. As a result of his schemes he's now deeply in debt to the loan sharks. A pair of hit men come to collect the money for their mob boss. Kevin heads for the airport where he pretends to be the long lost best friend of Gary Young. The hard part of his sham is to figure out the career choice of the man he is impersonating. He eventually becomes a close family friend and an ideal houseguest. Starring: **Sinbad** as Kevin Franklin and **Phil Hartman** as Gary Young.

—SYLVIA P. FLANAGAN

▲ Kevin (Sinbad, l) meets Gary Young (Phil Hartman, r) at the airport where he impersonates a friend Gary has not seen in 25 years in *Houseguest*.



▲ Comedy and chaos result when Kevin Franklin masquerades as a famous oral surgeon in *Houseguest*.



■ BARRY WHITE



■ BOYZ II MEN

1. THE ICON IS LOVE

Barry White (A&M)

2. II

Boyz II Men (Motown)

3. GROOVE ON

Gerald LeVert (Eastwest)

4. BLACKSTREET

Blackstreet (Atlantic)

5. CHANGING FACES

Changing Faces (Atlantic)

6. THE DIARY

Scarface (Rap-A-Lot)

7. GET UP ON IT

Keith Sweat (Elektra)

8. JASON'S LYRIC

Various Artists (Mercury)

9. MY LIFE

Mary J. Blige (MCA)

10. CRAZYSEXYCOOL

TLC (LaFace)

11. THE BEST OF SADE

Sade (Epic)

12. RHYTHM OF LOVE

Anita Baker (Elektra)

13. A LOVE SUPREME

Chanté Moore (MCA)

14. PLAYTIME IS OVER

Immature (MCA)

15. JUST FOR YOU

Gladys Knight (MCA)

16. METHOD MAN

Method Man (Def Jam)

17. N I I U

N I I U (Arista)

18. SONGS

Luther Vandross (Epic/LV)

19. THE GREATEST HITS (1980-1994)

Aretha Franklin (Arista)

20. TONI BRAXTON

Toni Braxton (LaFace)

Charles Dutton, Alfre Woodard Star In TV Production Of 'The Piano Lesson'

► In TV version of *The Piano Lesson*, Charles Dutton (seated, l) and Alfre Woodard (seated, r) head ensemble cast that also includes (clockwise from upper right) Tommy Hollis, Carl Gordon, Zelda Harris, Courtney B. Vance and Lou Myers.

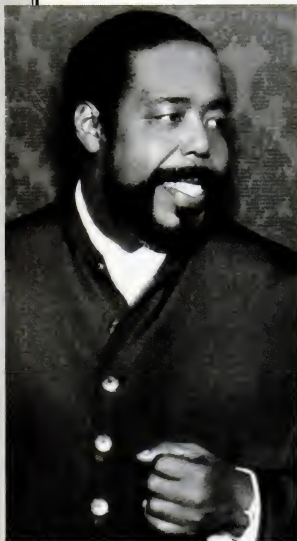
A stellar ensemble cast led by Alfre Woodard and Charles Dutton brings August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *The Piano Lesson* to television next week on CBS-TV.

The two-hour television special will air as a Hallmark Hall of Fame special on CBS on Sunday, February 5 at 9 p.m. ET/PT. This marks the first time a work by Wilson, whose other plays include *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Fences* and *Two Trains Running*, has been filmed.

Also appearing in the drama are Carl Gordon, Tommy Hollis, Courtney B. Vance, Lou Myers and Zelda Harris. Lloyd Richard, who has directed virtually all of Wilson's works for the stage, also directed the TV version of *The Piano Lesson*, which revolves around the conflict that arises when a family member wants to sell the family heirloom—a piano carved with the family's history.



▲ Director Lloyd Richards directs *The Piano Lesson* as playwright August Wilson watches as his first drama is filmed.



■ BARRY WHITE



■ BOYZ II MEN

1. PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

Barry White (A&M)

2. ON BENDED KNEE

Boyz II Men (Motown)

3. BEFORE I LET YOU GO

Blackstreet (Interscope)

4. CREEP

TLC (LaFace)

5. AGE AIN'T NOTHING BUT A NUMBER

Aaliyah (Jive)

6. WOMEN TO WOMEN

Jewel (Death Row)

7. BLACK COFFEE

Heavy D & The Boyz (MCA)

8. FOOLING AROUND

Changing Faces (Big Beat)

9. I NEVER SEEN A MAN CRY

Scarface (Rap-A-Lot)

10. FA ALL Y'ALL

Da Brat (Columbia)

11. I WANNA BE DOWN

Brandy (Atlantic)

12. U WILL KNOW

B.M.U. (Black Men United)

Mercury

13. CAN'T HELP MYSELF

Gerald LeVert (Eastwest)

14. HERE COMES THE HOTSTEPPER

Ini Kamoze (Columbia)

15. GET UP ON IT

Keith Sweat (Elektra)

16. EVERYDAY OF THE WEEK

Jade (Giant)

17. I APOLOGIZE

Anita Baker (Elektra)

18. BE HAPPY

Mary J. Blige (MCA)

19. THE SWEETEST DAYS

Vanessa Williams (Mercury)

20. SHAME

Zhané (Motown)

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television

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Starring in "Family Matters" are (rear, l-r) **Kellie Shanygne Williams, Darius McCrary, Jaleel White** (front, l-r) **Bryton McClure, JoMarie Payton Noble, Reginald VelJohnson and Rosetta LeNoire**. It's all fun and laughs when the gang gets together on (Friday, January 27 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC. Others scheduled to appear this week include:

Eriq LaSalle on "ER," (Thursday, January 26 at 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Mark Curry/Holly Robinson/Raven-Symoné/Saundra Quarterman/Marquise Wilson/Nell Carter on "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper," (Friday, January 27 at 9:30 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Yaphet Kotto on "Homicide: Life On The Street," (Friday, January 27 at 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Henry G. Sanders on "Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman," (Saturday, January 28 at 8 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Clarence Gilyard on "Walker, Texas Ranger," (Saturday, January 28 at 10 p.m., ET) on CBS.

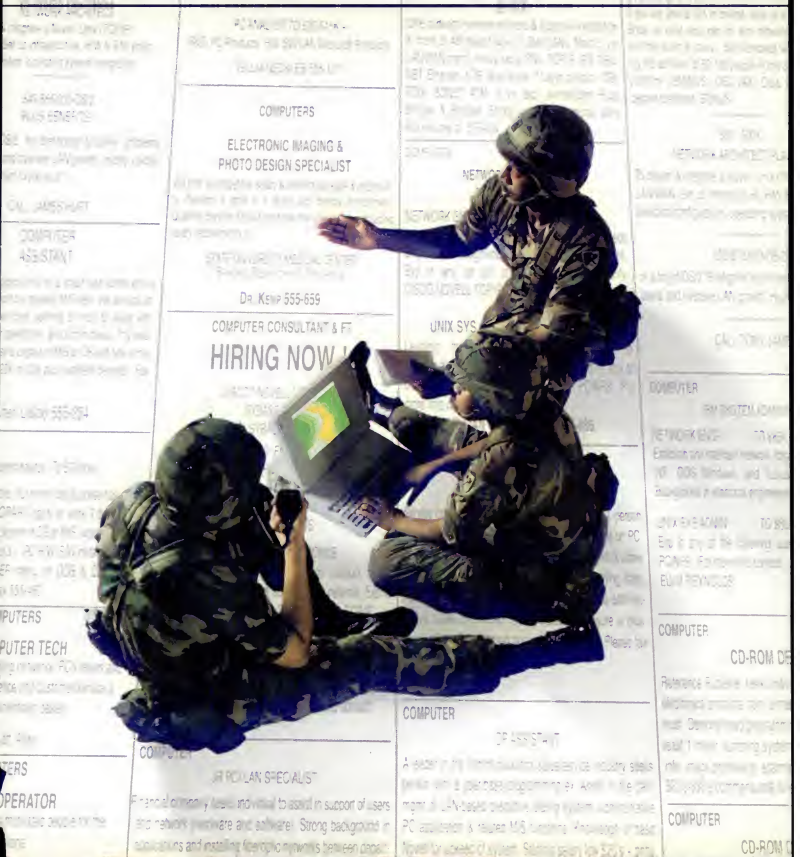
Will Smith/Karyn Parsons/Daphne Maxwell Reid/Alfonso Ribeiro/Joseph Marcell/Tatyana Ali/James Avery on "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," (Monday, January 30 at 8 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Queen Latifah on "22nd Annual American Music Awards," (Monday, January 30 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Steve Harvey/Chaz Lamar Shepherd/Mark Blankfield/Wayne Collins/Benjamin LeVert/Madge Sinclair on "Me And The Boys," (Tuesday, January 31 at 8:30 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Tim Reid/Jacké Harry/Tia Mowry/Tamera Mowry on "Sister, Sister," (Wednesday, February 1 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Bill Cosby/Lynn Whitfield on "The Cosby Mysteries," (Wednesday, February 1 at 8 p.m., ET) on NBC.



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